

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to an Office Action mailed 02/01/2006, in which the Examiner said that claims 1-5 and 7-28 were pending but rejected. In this amendment, claims 1, 13, and 19 are amended to overcome reasons for rejection given by the Examiner, while other reasons for rejections are traversed below.

Claims Rejected under 35 USC §103

In the above-mentioned Office Action, the Examiner said that claims 1-5, 7, 11-24, and 26-28 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,832,316 to Sibert, in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,463,537 to *Tello*, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,507,911 to Langford.

The Applicants' invention provides a method for preventing the reading of information stored within a first computer system, especially on a hard drive of the first computer system, in a second computer system, so that data cannot be stolen from the first computer system by removing the storage means, such as a hard disk drive, from the first computer system and reading the data. Since it is assumed that such removal of a storage device from the first computer system would occur with the first computer system turned off, the method of the invention provides encryption when the computer system is turned off and decryption when it is turned on. On the other hand, *Sibert* describes a method for integrating message authentication and decryption, with intermediate internal states of the decryption operation being used to detect manipulation of the encrypted data. Thus, the method of *Sibert* is applied to messages received by a computing system, not to data stored within the computing system when it is turned off.

The Applicants' invention provides a method for securing a large amount of data,

stored within a hard disk drive medium or on a removable computer readable medium, by encrypting a small amount of data within a data structure including information locating the various data records on the medium. This method avoids a need to encrypt and subsequently decrypt all of the data to be protected. On the other hand, the method of *Sibert* requires that all of the data to be protected is encrypted and subsequently decrypted, as described, for example, column 3, lines 8-12, 20-23, and column 5, lines 12-17.

Tello describes a 'personalized' computer with a unique encrypted digital signature which will not boot up or recognize any data storage or communication peripheral device without a matching 'personalized' smart card containing a complimentary encrypted digital signature, as described in the Abstract.

Langford describes a data deletion system and method providing a system invoked deletion process that modifies the desired data to be deleted.

Regarding claim 1 and the teachings of *Sibert*, the Examiner further indicated that *Sibert* discloses a method providing security for a plurality of data records stored on a computer readable medium within a computer system, wherein said computer readable medium additionally stores a first data structure, starting at a first location within said computer readable medium, locating data records in said plurality thereof, said method being a decryption subroutine executed as said computing system is being initialized, said decryption subroutine includes determining that electrical power has been turned on in said computing system, reading said encrypted version of said first data structure from said nonvolatile storage, decrypting said encrypted version of said first data structure to form said first data structure (see column 6 lines 55-67) and a method for encrypting (see column 5 lines 41-67).

Regarding the above statement, the Applicants respectfully submit that, as

described in claim 1 of the Applicants' invention, the first data structure must locate data records in the plurality of data records that are stored on the computer readable medium and for which security is provided by the method. On the other hand, *Sibert* describes, in column 6, lines 55-67, an embodiment in which decoding logic is used at system start-up to decrypt and validate *system control programs* to be operable to initialize and control the operation of the system 42. The system 42 can then be used to decrypt data. *Thus, there is no indication that the data itself is decrypted in the method of Sibert at system start-up, or that it is even available for decryption at that time. There is no indication that the system of Sibert decrypts a data structure locating data records within the data at that time or at any other time.*

Furthermore, regarding the above statement, the applicants note that the text cited by the Examiner for encrypting, column 5, lines 41-67, merely indicates that the system includes an encoding system, described in exemplary detail, for encoding messages or data and transmitting the resulting ciphertext to a recipient's system. *Thus, there is no indication that the system of Sibert decrypts a data structure locating data records.*

The above arguments regarding applying the teachings of *Sibert* to claim 1 were made in the Applicant's response mailed 01/12/2006, and are repeated herein because they are still considered to be valid.

In a response to these arguments, within the Office Action mailed 02/07/2006, the Examiner said that the statement from column 6, lines 55-66 that "decoding logic is used at system start-up to decrypt and validate system control programs," clearly teaches the Applicants' claimed limitation of decrypting at start up, and that, with respect to argument that *Sibert* fails to disclose decrypting a data structure locating data records, the system control programs correspond to the claimed data structure, that these programs "initialize and control the operation of

[the] system," and therefore must have within them the location of the data used to initialize and control the systems.

Regarding the above statement, the Applicants respectfully submit that the requirements of claim 1 deal with encrypting a data structure stored on the computer readable medium, with the data structure locating the data records being protected. This is done to keep someone from being able to read the data records after the hard file has been removed from the computer system. Instead of doing this, *Sibert* encrypts system control programs. For example, *Sibert* could encrypt programs used for DMA access to data stored in a computer readable medium, such as a hard disk drive or a floppy disk. Such programs do not include data locating individual data records on any disk drives. The encryption methods of *Sibert* would not impede an attempt to read the data records on the computer readable medium with the computer readable medium removed from the computer system and installed in another computer system. Thus, this significant feature of the Applicants' invention is in no way anticipated by the disclosure of *Sibert*.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner erred in determining that the system control programs of *Sibert* must have within them the location of the data used to initialize and control the systems.

The Examiner additionally said that *Sibert* fails to disclose the encryption subroutine include receiving a request to shut down said computing system, reading said first data structure from said computer readable medium, encrypting said first data structure to produce an encrypted version of said first data structure, using a public key encryption scheme and the encryption being done to prevent reading information stored in data records when the medium is removed from the system.

Regarding Claim 1 and the teachings of *Tello*, the Examiner said that *Tello* teaches performing tasks at shut down (see column 14, lines 1-41) and public key encryption (see column 8 lines 34-40) and the encryption being done to prevent reading information stored in data records when the medium is removed from the system (see column 4 line 38 through column 5 line 14).

Regarding this statement, the Applicants respectfully note that, according to the cited text in column 14, lines 1-41, the system of *Tello* includes a security engine microprocessor taking over control from the motherboard CPU to secure data with a modified BIOS by hiding all data storage devices and user selected peripheral devices upon system start up and shut down. *Thus, the Examiner uses Tello only to indicate that something can happen during system shut down; there is no indication that data records locating data to be protected are being encrypted. This process of Tello does not involve any form of data encryption.* In fact, *Tello* teaches against the Applicant's invention, indicating that data should be protected by hiding access to storage devices instead of by encrypting data records locating data files. The other text cited in *Tello*, column 8, lines 34-40, suggests the use of an encryption algorithm, such as an RSA algorithm, to encrypt selected data that is to be passed to or used by another computer. *There is no reason or indication that such encryption should occur at system shut down.*

The above arguments regarding applying the teachings of *Tello* to claim 1 were made in the Applicant's response mailed 01/12/2006, and are repeated herein because they are still considered to be valid.

In a response to these arguments, within the Office Action mailed 02/07/2006, the Examiner said that that, with respect to the Applicants' argument that *Tello* fails to disclose encryption occurring at shut down, in column 14 *Tello* discloses, "Hides all storage devices and other user selected peripheral data storage and

communication devices upon start up and shut down of the computer” and furthermore the disabling is done by using encryption as seen in column 14, lines 34-41. The Examiner further said that, also in column 8, lines 34-40, *Tello* discloses that a public key algorithm is used for encrypting data that is used by computers, which enables the invention.

In response to the above statement by the Examiner, the Applicants note that, while *Tello* hides storage devices and communication devices upon start up and shut down, there is no indication that the processes used involve encrypting a data structure locating data records during shut down within this process. In fact, it would appear that the process of hiding the storage devices during system shutdown would make it impossible, during system shutdown, to read the data structure locating data records, to encrypt the data structure, to delete the unencrypted version of the data structure, and to write the encrypted version of the data structure to the computer readable medium, as required by claim 1 within the Applicants’ invention. While *Tello* discloses providing means for encryption during the operation of the operation of the computer system, there is no reason to believe that such encryption would be applied to a data structure locating various data records, or that encryption could or would be used during system shutdown.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner erred in determining that the indication by *Tello* that storage devices and other user selected data storage and communication devices are hidden upon start up and shut down means that data, and in particular a data structure locating data records, would be encrypted upon system shut down.

The Applicants further respectfully submit that the processes of *Tello* during system shut down are in no way equivalent to the processes of the Applicants’ invention in that the hiding of storage devices during system start up and shut

down would have no effect on the reading of data records from a computer readable medium that has been removed from the computer system, while the encryption of a data structure locating the data records during system shut down would prevent the data records from being read with the computer readable medium removed from the system.

Regarding claim 1 and the teachings of *Langford*, this reference is used by the Examiner to describe a method of replacing data in a computer readable medium. Adding the teachings of *Langford* to those of *Sibert* and *Tello* does not overcome the deficiencies described above in describing the limitations of claim 1.

Regarding claim 1, in conclusion, for all the reasons described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that *Sibert*, *Tello*, and *Langford*, taken separately or in combination, fail to disclos, teach, or otherwise anticipate the requirements of claim 1 for a method, wherein

said method comprises an encryption subroutine executed as said computing system is being shut down and a decryption subroutine executed as said computing system is being initialized,

said encryption subroutine includes receiving a request to shut down said computing system, reading said first data structure from said computer readable medium, encrypting said first data structure with a public key of said computing system to produce an encrypted version of said first data structure that can only be decrypted with a private key of said computing system to prevent reading information stored in said data records with said computer readable medium removed from said computing system, deleting said first data structure from said computer readable medium, and storing said encrypted version of said first data structure in nonvolatile storage, starting at a second location within said nonvolatile storage, and

said decryption subroutine includes determining that electrical power has

been turned on in said computing system, reading said encrypted version of said first data structure from said nonvolatile storage, decrypting said encrypted version of said first data structure with said private key of said computing system to form said first data structure, and writing said first data structure to said computer readable medium, starting at said first location.

For all the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford*.

Regarding claims 2-5, 7, 11, and 12 since these dependent claims merely add limitations to claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that, for reasons described above regarding claim 1, claims 2-5, 7, 11 and 12 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford*.

Regarding claims 13 and 19, in the above-mentioned Office Action, the Examiner said that the modified *Sibert*, *Tello* and *Langford* system discloses a method providing security for a plurality of data records stored on a computer readable medium within a computing system, wherein said computer medium additionally stores a first data structure starting at a first location within said removable computer readable medium, locating data records in said plurality thereof, said method comprises an encryption subroutine executed to encrypt said first data structure and a decryption subroutine subsequently executed to decrypt an encrypted version of said first data structure, said encryption subroutine includes reading said first data structure from said computer readable medium, encrypting said first data structure within a cryptographic processor in said computing system using an encryption key to produce an encrypted version of said first data structure, deleting said first data structure from said computer readable medium, and storing said encrypted version of said first data structure

in nonvolatile storage, starting at a second location within said nonvolatile storage, and said decryption subroutine includes reading said encrypted version of said first data structure from said nonvolatile storage, decrypting said encrypted version of said first data structure within said cryptographic processor in said computing system using a decryption key generated from data stored in secure storage accessed by said cryptographic processor to form said first data structure, and writing said data structure to said computer readable medium, starting at said first location (see rejection of claim 5) with the prevention of reading records when the medium is removed from the system (see *Tello* as applied to claim 1).

Regarding the above statement by the Examiner, the Applicant respectfully submits that, generally for reasons described above in regard to the rejection of claim 1, *Sibert*, *Tello* and *Langford*, taken separately or in combination, fail to describe the requirements of claims 13 and 19 for a method or a computing system wherein said encryption subroutine includes reading said first data structure from said computer readable medium, encrypting said first data structure within a cryptographic processor in said computing system using an encryption key to produce an encrypted version of said first data structure, deleting said first data structure from said computer readable medium, and storing said encrypted version of said first data structure in nonvolatile storage, starting at a second location within said nonvolatile storage, and said decryption subroutine includes reading said encrypted version of said first data structure from said nonvolatile storage, decrypting said encrypted version of said first data structure within said cryptographic processor.

The Applicants respectfully submit that, as described in detail above regarding the rejection of claim 1, *Sibert*, *Tello*, and *Langford* do not describe the encryption and subsequent decryption of a data structure describing the locations of data records on the computer readable medium being protected, with *Sibert*

instead teaching that the entirety of the data to be protected should be encrypted and decrypted, and with *Tello* teaching that peripheral devices should be enabled and disabled at system start up and shut down. The Applicants further submit that these cited references fail to describe, teach, or otherwise anticipate the requirements of claim 13 for the encryption subroutine to encrypt said first data structure and for a decryption subroutine subsequently executed to decrypt said encrypted version of said first data structure, and for these encryption and decryption processes to within a cryptographic processor, *wherein said first data structure locates data records in a plurality of data records stored on a computer readable medium.*

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13 and 19 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford*.

Regarding claim 14, the Applicants respectfully submit that *Sibert*, *Tello*, and *Langford*, taken separately or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or otherwise anticipate the requirement of claim 14 for the encryption program to be executed in response to receiving a request to shut down the computing system and for the encryption routine to be executed in response to electrical power being turned on within the computing system. *Langford* does not describe encryption and decryption occurring in response to the system being shut down or turned on. *Tello* describes peripheral devices being disabled and enabled as the system is shut down or turned on. *Sibert* describes system control programs, not a data structure locating data records, being decrypted when the system is turned on. There is no indication that the control programs are encrypted when the system is turned off; they may be stored in an encrypted form whether or not the system is running.

Therefore, and additionally because claim 14 merely adds these limitations to

claim 13, which is believed to be patentable for reasons described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford*.

5 **Regarding claims 15-18**, the Applicants respectfully submit that, since these claims merely add limitations to claim 13, for reasons described above regarding claim 13, claims 15-18 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford*.

10 **Regarding claims 20-24**, the Applicants respectfully submit that, since these claims merely add limitations to claim 19, for reasons described above regarding claim 19, claims 20-24 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford*.

15 **Regarding claim 26**, the Applicants respectfully submit that *Sibert*, *Tello*, and *Langford*, taken separately or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or otherwise anticipate the requirement of claim 26 for encrypting said first data structure to form an encrypted version of said first data structure without encrypting said plurality of data records as said computing system is being shut down, and for
20 decrypting said encrypted version of said first data structure as said computing system is being initialized. As described in detail above regarding the rejection of claim 1, the cited references do not anticipate encrypting the first data structure as the computing system is being shut down or for performing the required decryption as the system is being initialized.

25 Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is nothing in the cited references indicating that the data structure locating the data records is encrypted without encrypting the data records themselves.

30 Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 is patentable under 35

USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford*.

5 **Regarding claims 27 and 28**, the Applicants respectfully submit that, since these claims merely add limitations to claim 26, for reasons described above regarding claim 26, claims 27 and 28 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford*.

10 **Regarding claims 8, 9, and 25**, the Examiner indicated that these claims were rejected under 33 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over a modified *Sibert*, *Tello*, and *Langford* system, further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,544,356 to Robinson et al., with *Robinson et al.* teaching a boot record describing the file allocation table. Nevertheless, the Applicants respectfully submit that adding the teachings of Robinson et al does not provide a description of the encryption and subsequent decryption of a data structure locating various data records, with
15 such a description being missing from the disclosure of the other cited patents. Therefore, and additionally because claims 8 and 9 merely add limitations to claim 1, and further because claim 25 merely adds limitations to claim 19, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 10, and 25 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford* and
20 additionally in view of *Robinson et al.*

25 **Regarding claims 8, 10, and 25**, the Examiner indicated that these claims were rejected under 33 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over a modified *Sibert*, *Tello*, and *Langford* system, further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,070,174 to Starek et al., with *Starek et al.* describing an array of file records in a master file table of an NTFS file, and a second data structure including metafile data in the master file table. Nevertheless, the Applicants respectfully submit that adding the teachings of *Starek et al* does not provide a description of the encryption and subsequent decryption of a data structure locating various data records, with
30 such a description being missing from the disclosure of the other cited patents.

Therefore, and additionally because claims 8 and 10 merely add limitations to claim 1, and further because claim 25 merely adds limitations to claim 19, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 10, and 25 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over *Sibert* in view of *Tello* and further in view of *Langford* and additionally in view of *Starek et al.*

Regarding claims 1-5 and 7-28, the Examiner additionally indicated that claims 1-5 and 7-28, were rejected as previously described but in view of JP2001202167A, which discloses a control method for a computer, involving the encrypting and decoding data in memory based on power on or off in the power supply. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that this Japanese patent teaches that the entire contents of the memory should be encrypted and decrypted. Again, there is no teaching of the encryption and decryption only of a data structure describing the location of data records to be protected. *This difference between the prior art and the Applicant's invention is particularly significant, because, while JP2001202167A requires the encryption and decryption of a vast amount of data stored, for example, on a hard disk drive, the method of the Applicants' invention requires the encryption and decryption of a much smaller quantity of data, making it feasible to provide the encryption and decryption processes whenever the computing system is turned on and off. This is a key to making the process of the Applicant's invention practical.*

In the Office Action of 02/07/2006, the Examiner said that, with respect to the Applicants' argument that the Japanese reference encrypts all of the data on a hard drive, not just a data structure as in the Applicants' claims, if the Japanese reference encrypts all of the data on the hard drive it would also therefore encrypt any data structures pointing to locations of data records on the hard drive.

In the present amendment, independent claims 1, 13, and 19 are amended to include a requirement that the encryption routine encrypts the first data structure,

which locates data records in the plurality of data records, without encrypting the plurality of data records. Support for this modification is found in the application as originally filed on page 9, lines 27-29, and on pages 18-21.

5 Because claims 2-5 and 7-12 depend upon the independent claim 1, adding this limitation to claim 1 causes its incorporation within claims 2-5 and 7-12. Because claims 14-18 depend upon the independent claim 13, adding this limitation to claim 13 causes its incorporation within claims 14-18. Because claims 20-25 depend upon the independent claim 19, adding this limitation to claim 19 causes
10 its incorporation within claims 20-25. The independent claim 26, as previously presented, already had a limitation requiring that the method encrypts the first data structure including data locating the data records without encrypting the data records themselves. Since claims 27 and 28 merely add their requirement to claim 26, this limitation is incorporated within claims 27 and 28. Thus, with the
15 present amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-28 each include a requirement that the data structure locating the data records must be encrypted without encrypting the data records themselves.

20 The Applicants additionally respectfully submit that the method of JP2001202167A is merely applied to a volatile memory within a notebook computer, since power is left on the volatile memory when the main power is shut off. This reference does not describe the method as being applied to a non-volatile memory, such as a hard disk.

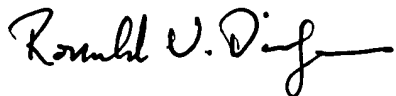
25 For the reasons described in detail above, the Applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior art cited by the Examiner teaches or otherwise anticipates the requirement of each claim 1-5 and 7-28 for a data structure locating data records to be encrypted without encrypting the data records themselves. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 and 7-28 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) as described above and further in view of JP2001202167A.

Conclusions

The Applicants respectfully submit that the application, including claims 1-28, is now in condition for allowance, and that action is earnestly requested, with reconsideration and withdrawal of all reasons given for rejections.

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Respectfully submitted,



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